THE WAR BEGUN.

ery Exciting News from Charleston.

portant Correspondence Between General Beauregard, Major Anderson and the Southern Secretary of War.

e Summons to Major Anderson to Surrender.

JOR ANDERSON'S REFUSAL.

mbardment of Fort Sumter Commenced.

rrible Fire from the Secessionists' Batteries.

illiant Defence of Maj. Anderson and His Gallant Garrison.

kless Bravery of the Confederate States Troops.

val of the Harriet Lane, Pawnee d Another Steamer Off Charleston.

HARRIET LANE FIRED INTO.

ATEEN HOURS FIGHTING.

aches in the Walls of Fort Sumter.

of Major Anderson's Guns Silenced.

BATION OF THE FIRING FOR THE NIGHT

icipated Attempt to Reinforce Fort Sumter.

s and Plans of the Scene of Conflict,

SPECIAL DESPATCHES FROM CHARLES

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861. i war has at last begun. A terrible fight is moment going on between Fort Sumter he fortifications by which it is surrounded. my last despatch I stated that negotiations been reopened between General Beauregard lajor Anderson. This was done with a view event an unnecessary effusion of blood.

issue was submitted to Major Anderson of ndering as soon as his supplies were exed, or of having a fire opened on him within

refused to do, and accordingly, at twenen minutes past four o'clock this morning Moultrie began the bombardment by firing runs. To these Major Anderson replied with of his barbette guns, after which the batteon Mount Pleasant, Commings' Point, and the ing Battery, opened a brisk fire of shot and

for Anderson did not reply, except at long vals, until between seven and eight o'clock, he brought into action the two tiers of guns og towards Fort Moultrie and Stevens' iron

o this hour (three o'clock Friday afternoon) have failed to produce any serious effect. spatches received at headquarters from the us forts report that all is going on admirably,

jor Anderson has the greater part of the day directing his fire principally against Fort rie, the Stevens and Floating Battery, these ort Johnson being the only five operating st him. The remainder of the batteries are

ne fifteen or eighteen shots have struck the ting Battery, but made not the slightest imsion upon its iron cased sides. The Stevens' ery is also eminently successful, and does ter-

execution on Fort Sumter. reaches, to all appearance, are being made in several sides exposed to fire. Portions of the pet have been destroyed, and several of the here mounted have been shot away.

of casemate ordunnee. e fight is going on with intense earnestness

Anderson is at present using his lower

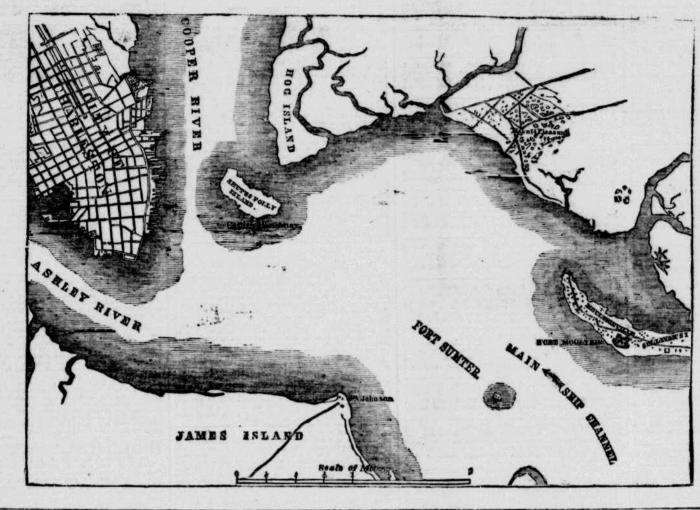
will continue all night. is not improbable that the fort will be carried

e soldiers are perfectly rocking of their

The ball has opened-war is inaugurated. The batteries of Sullivan's Island, Maris Island arener.

THE SCENE OPERATIONS.

Charleston and Its Defences---Plan of the Harbor, Showing the Position of Forts Sumter and Moultrie, Cummings Point Iron Battery, Fort Johnson, the Floating Battery and Other Fortifications.



lives, and at every shot jump upon the ramparts, observe the effect, and then jump down,

A party on the Stevens battery are said to have played a game of the hottest fire.

The excitement in the community is indescribable. With the very first boom of the gun thousands rushed from their beds to the harbor front, and all day every available place has been thronged by ladies and gentlemen, viewing the solemn spectacle through their glasses. Most of these have relatives in the several fortifications, and many a tearful eye attested the anxious affection of the mother, wife and sister, but not a murmur came from a single

The spirit of patriotism is as sincere as it is universal. Five thousand ladies stand ready today to respond to any sacrifice that may be re-

The brilliant and patriotic conduct of Major tacks lately made at the North upon his character

Business is entirely suspended. Only those stores are open which are necessary to supply articles required by the army.

Governor Pickens has all day been in the residence of a gentleman which commands a view of the whole scene, a most interested observer. General Beauregard commands in person the entire operations, and thus far they have moved with the utmost system and success.

It is reported that the Harriet Lane has re ceived a shot through her wheelhouse. She is in the offing. No other government ships are in sight up to the present moment, but should they appear the entire range of batteries will open

Troops are pouring into the town by hundreds, but are held in reserve for the present, the force already on the island being ample. People are also arriving every moment on horseback, and by every other conveyance. Within an area of fifty miles, where the thunder of the artillery can be heard, the scene is magnificently terrible.

CHARLESTON, April 12-6 P. M. Captain R. S. Parker brings despatches from the

Floating Battery, stating that up to this time only two have been wounded on Sullivan's Island. He had to row through Major Anderson's warmest

Senator Wigfall in same manner bore despatches to Morris Island, through the fire from Fort

Senator Chesnut, another member of the staff of Gen. Beauregard, fired a gun, by way of amusement, from Mount Pleasant, which made a large

Quite a number have been struck by spent pieces of shell and knocked down, but none hurt seriously. Many fragments of these missiles are already circulating in the city.

The range is more perfect than in the morning, and every shot from the land tells. Three ships are visible in the offing, and it is be-

lieved an attempt will be made to-night to throw reinforcements into Fort Sumter in small boats. It is also thought, from the regular and frequent firing of Major Anderson, that he has a much larger force of men than was supposed. At any rate, he is fighting bravely.

There have been two rain storms during the day but without effect upon the battle.

Everybody is in a ferment. Some of those fighting are stripped to the waist.

THE GENERAL PRESS DESPATCHES. CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861.

and other points were opened on Fort Sumter at THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO GENERAL BEAUREGARD. four o'clock this morning. Fort Sumter has returned the fire, and a brisk cannonading has been kept up. No information has been received from the seaboard yet.

The military are under arms and the whole of our population are on the streets. Every available space facing the harbor is filled with anxious

The firing has continued all day without inter-

Two of Fort Sumter's guns have been silenced, and it is reported thet affreach has been made in

Of the nineteen batteries in position only seven have opened fire on Fort Sumter. The remainder are held in reserve for the expected fleet.

Two thousand men reached this city this morning, and embarked for Morris Island and the

Intercepted despatches disclose the fact that Mr. Fox, who had been allowed to visit Major Anderson on the pledge that his purpose was pacific, employed his opportunity to devise a plan for supplying the fort by force, and that this plan had been adopted by the Washington government, and was in progress of execution.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861. The Floating Battery and Stevens' Battery are operating freely and Fort Sumter is returning the

It is reported that three war vessels are outside

THE LATEST FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861. The firing has ceased for the night, but will be renewed at daylight in the morning, unless an attempt is made to reinforce the fort, which ample arrangements have been made to repel.

The Pawnee, Harriet Lane, and a third steamer are reported off the bar.

Troops are arriving by every train.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE CONFE DERATE SECRETARY OF WAR AND GEN.

The following is the telegraphic correspondence be tween the War Department at Montgomery and Gen. Beauregard immediately preceding the hostilities. The correspondence grew out of the formal notification by the Washington government, which is disclosed in Gen. Beauregard's first despatches:—

GEN. BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR. L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War:-

An authorized messenger from President Lincoln just informed Governor Pickens and myself that provisions will be sent to Fort Sumter peaceably, or otherwise by P. G. T. BEAUREGARD. THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO GENERAL BEAUREGARD. MONTGOMERY, April 10, 1861. Gen. P. G. T. Braurrgard, Charleston:If you have no doubt of the authorized character of

the agent who communicated to you the intention of the Washington government to supply Fort Sumter by force, you will at once demand its evacuation; and if this is to reduce it. Answer.
L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War.

GENERAL BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR. CHARLESTON, April 10, 1861. L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War :-The demand will be made to morrow at twelve o'clock

P. G. T. BEAUREGARD. THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO GENERAL BEAUREGARD. MONTGOMERY, April 10, 1861. General Beauregand, Charleston :-Unless there are especial reasons connected with your

own condition, it is considered proper that you should make the demand at an early hour. L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War. GENERAL BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR. CHARLESTON, April 10, 1861.

L. P. Waterne, Secretary of War, Montgomery:-

The reasons are special for twelve o'clock. P. G. P. BEAURE FARD. GENERAL BEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR. CHARLESTON, April 11, 1861. P. WALTER, Secretary of War .smand seasat two o'clock; a'llowed till alx o'clock to

MONTGOMERY, April 11, 1861. General Beauxegand, Charleston :-

Telegraph the reply of Major Anderson. L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War. GENERAL SEAUREGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR. CHARLESTON, April 11, 1851.

Major Anderson replies:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication denugating the evacuation of this fort, and to say in replicit mereto that it is a demand with which I regret that my sense of honor and my obligations to my government prevent my compliance.

Probably I will await the first shot, and if you do not batter us to niece the will be starved out in a few days.

Abswer: 1 P. C. T. BEAUREGARD.

THE SPCI I LY O WAR TO GENERAL BEAUREGARD.

MONIGOMERY, April 11, 1861. We do not desire medlessly to bombard Fort Sumter if Major Anderson will state the time at which, as indi ested by him, he will evacuate, and agree that, in the meantime, he will not use his guns against us, unless ours

should be employed against Fort Sumter. You are thus to avoid the effusion of blood. If this or its equivalent be refused, reduce the fort as your judg. ment decides to be the most practicable.

L. P. WALKER, Secretary of War. EGARD TO THE SECRETARY OF CHARLESTON, April 12, 1861. P. WALKER, Secretary of War:-

He would not consent. I write to-day. P. G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CHARLESTON AND ITS DEFENCES.

The news of the bombardment of Fort Sumter by the Confederate forces, which we publish this morning, in duces us to give a full description of the scene of operations, embracing the city of Charleston, its harbor and fortifications. The plans of the forts and batteries, showing the stronghold of Major Anderson and the position of the attacking forces under General Beauregard, cannot fail to interest our readers.

FORT SUMTER-THE STRONGHOLD OF MAJOR AN-

Fort Sumter is a modern truncated peutagonal fort, arbor, three and three-eights miles from the city of Charleston. The island has for its base a sand and mud refuse chips from several Northern granite quarries. These rocks are firmly embedded in the sand, and upon them the present fortification is reared. The island itself cost half a million of dollars, and was ten years in construction. The fortification cost another balf a million dollars p nearly completed as to admit the introduction of its armament. The walls are of solid brick and concrete masonry, built close to the edge of the water, and without a berm. They are sixty feet high, and from eight to twelve feet in thickness, and are pierced for three tiers of guns on the north, east, and west exterior sides. Its weakest point is on the south side, of which the masonry is not only weaken han that of the other sides, but it is not protected by any flank fire, which would sweep the wharf. Once landed, ion, be easily made; for the blinds of the lower embraores, though six inches in thickness, may yet be early adders can reach those of the second tier, which are not protected in this manner. The work is designed for an of all calibres. Two tiers of the guns are under bombproof casemates, and the third or upper tier open, or, in military parlance, en barbette; the lower tier for forty-two pounder paixhan guns; the second tier for eight and ten-inch columbiads, for throwing solid or hollow shot, and the upper tier for mortars and twenty-four pound guns. The full armament of the fort, however, had not arrived there when Major Ander, son took possession; but since its occupancy by the present garrison no efforts have been spared to place the work in an efficient state of defence, by mounting all the available guns and placing them in satient points. As we before remarked, the full armament of the fort is not in position, as only seventy-five of the one hundred and forty guns required for it are now mounted. Eleven paixhan guns are among that number, nine of them commanding Fort Moultrie, which is within easy range, and the other two pointing towards Castle Pinckney which is well out of range Some of the celumbiads, the most effective weapon for siege or defensive operations, are not mounted Four of the thirty two pounder bar bette guns are on pivot carriages, which gives them the entire range of the horizon, and others have a horizontal sweep of fire of 180 degrees. In addition to these weightier proparations for defence, the walls are pierced everywhere for muskets, of which there are endless numbers ready and loaded. The magazine contains seven hundre rels of gunpowder and an ample supply of shot, powter and shells for one year's siege, and a large amount of pisculancees artillery stores. The garrison is amply pplied with water from artificial wells, which are sup-

or strategical point of view, Fort Sumter radiates its fire through all the channels from the sea approach to Charleston, and basa full sweep of range in its rear or city side. The fort is sufficiently out of range from a isnd arthery attack, so that all apprehensions for breaching it from that source may be put at rest, unless by guns of superior calibre. The maximum range of the guns from Samter is three miles; but for accurate firing, sufficient to hull a vessel, the distance would require to be reduced one-balf of that figure. The war garrison of the fort is six hundred men, but only

Names.	Rank.	Regiment or Corps.	Original En- try into Service.	Born in.
Abner Doubleday Trough Seymour The fore Talbot. J. C. Davis. J. N. Hall J. G. Foster G. W. Snyder.	Captain 1st Lieut 1st Lieut 2d Lieut Captain 1st Lieut	Int Art'y	fuly 1, 1846 May 22, 1847 June 17, 1848 July 1, 1879 July 1, 1846 oly 1, 1856	Pens N. Y. Vt. D. C. Ind. N. Y. N. Y.
Officers				. 10

The embrasures for musketry on the side of the work filled in with lead, and are now ball and bomb proof, adding materially to the strength of the work. Inside, the magazine and hospital have been protected by stone traverses, and me parade cleared.

FORT MOULTRIE.

Fort Moultrie, which first opened its batteries upon Major Anderson and his command, is one of the sentinels that guard the principal entrance to Charleston harbor. It is opposite to and distant from Fort Sumter about one and a hall miles. It is, more properly speaking, a huge water battery, without any guns under cover. Its armament consists of eleven guns of heavy calibre and several mortars. The outer and inner walls are of brick, capped with stone and filled with earth, making a solid wall fifteen or sixteen feet in thickness. This work has been much strengthened recently, and presents a saucy front to Fort Sumter. It is now in command of Major Ripley, formerly of the United States Army, who has under his command several hundred experienced artillerists.

THE IRON FLOATING BATTERY. This novel war machine, designed for harbor opera tions, is now anchored near Sullivan's Island, com manding the barbette guns of Fort Sumter. It is constructed of paimetto logs, sheathed with plate iron, and is supposed to be impregnable against shot. It is embrasured for and mounts four guns of heavy calibre. It requires sixty men to operate it. The first impression on seeing this machine is that of immense solidity. The outer or gun side is covered with six plates of iron-two of them of the T railroad pattern placed horizontally, and the other four belted one over the other, in the strongest manner, and running vertically. The wall of the gun side full four set thick, constructed of that peculiar palmetto wood so full of fibrous material that sixty-four pounders cannot pierce it. The main deck is wide and roomy In nineteen open chambers, on the port side of the deak, we found a profusion of shot-thirty-four pounderswhile just beyond them is an immense pile of sand bags, which protect an overhanging roof, under which is to be placed the hospital. This also protects the magazines (three in number), under which is the hold proper There are six antrances to the hold, which will contain if necessary, over three hundred men. It is kept in place by four heavy wedges, driven down by a species of ram, which will hold it fast, and prevent any swaving around by the tide. CUMMING'S FOINT IRON BATTERY.



Cumming's Point, distance 1,150 yards. On this point is the celebrated railroad iron batan illustration of which we give above. constate of a heavy framework of yellow pine logs. The roof is of the same material, over which dovetalled bars of railroad iron of the T pattern are laid from top to bottom-all of which is riveted down in the most secure manner. On the front it presents an angle of about thirty degrees. There are three portholes, which open and ciese with iron shutters of the heaviest description When open, the muzzles of the columbiads fill up the space completely. The recoil of the gun enables the shutters to be closed instantly It is asserted, on high milltary authority, that this inclined plane will effectually resint guns of the heaviest calibre-first, because no shot can strike it except at an obtuse angle, which would plied by the frequent showers of rain. In a defensive cause the ball to glance; second, because its power

resistance is sufficient to withstand the fall of the heaviest shelis. The columbiad guns, with which this novel battery is equipped bear on the south wall of Sumter, the line of fire being at an angle of about thirty-five degrees, This is not, of course, considered favorable for breaching; but owing to the fact that the wall is loop-holed for musketry throughout its entire length, which, of course, weakens it a great deal, the effect of shot upon it would, we think, even at the distance of 1,150 yards, effect a breach within a reasonable time. The work is in charge of several companies of the regular army of the Comfederate States. If employed to reduce Fort Sumter, this battery will prove quite formidat



The Fort Johnson batteries consist of two hurge sand works, containing mortar and seige gun batteries, of which the above and the subjoined are good illustra



These works are one and one-fourth of a mile from Fort Sumter, and at present manned by two companies of regular artillery. The position of this eld fort, which is of the utmost importance as a connecting point in the defence of the harbor, has been considered by the highest military authority as the key to all the defensive works in the harbor. Against the attack of forces by land, or a boat attack by the Stone river, it must be considered an essential element of defence.

CASTLE PINCKNEY. Castle Pinckney is a small work, situated on the

southern extremity of "Shute's Folly Island," between the Hog and Folly channels. Though in itself not a very considerable military work, yet, from its position, commanding as it does the whole line of the eastern wharves, it becomes of the atmost importance for it to be held by the State authorities. It is, in fact, the immediate out work of the city, useful to annoy an invading fleet should it pass the outer forts, and to render their landing very difficult, if not impossible. In its plan it presents to the south a semicircular face; the eastern and western faces are formed by the line of rampart following the direction of the tangent to the circular are at its extremity, and for a distance of twenty yards; the northern side is plain; at both the northeastern and northwestern angles are semicircular bastions, the outer extremities of the arcs being tangent respec-tively to the eastern and western sides of the fort, There are two rows of guns-the lower being in casemates (bombproof), the embrasures for which are about seven feet above low water mark, and the upper being en bartelle. The height of the rampart is twenty, and the width thirty-two feet. The width of the outer wall and of the parapet is *ix feet; the depth of the casemates is twenty fast, height ten; the diameter (cast and west) of the castle is one hundred and seventy feet. The enare the officers' and privates' quarters, messroom, &c. The ascent to the barbette is made on the north and northwestern corners of the terre-paradeplein. In the centre of the latter is the furnace for heating shot. Around the foot of the scarp wall is a break water, about twelve feet in width, horizontally, which has its western side extended in a tangent direction to the south, to form the landing. The landing is protected by the fire of Veral guns sweeping its length. The armament of this castle consists of about twenty five pieces, 24 and 32 pounders, a few se the magazine is a sufficiency of ammunition, including shot and leaded shell. This work has been of late put in as thorough repair as possible. Owing to the want of ventilation and the reverberation of the sound in, an engagement, the lower tier of guns would soon become useless, and the occupants would be obliged to resort entirely to the barbette guns and morters. In this case the exposure to the enemies' direct shot would not be great, for the parapet is higher than the bulks of most ships, and much higher than the adjoining shore. As to its importance, although, if we possessed forts Sumter and Moultrie, it would be of comparatively little use, yet if an enemy possessed it, its proximity to the city would enable the garrison to damage Charleston seriously.

OTHER WORKS. There are other works at Hadril's Point, Mount Pleasant, Stone, Morris Island, and fronting the entrance of Charleston harbor, which are constructed of palmetto logs and sand. They are all fully manned for action with large garrison and guns of heavy calibre.

THE EXACT DISTANCES OF THE FORTS.

Fort Sumter is three and three-eights miles from Charleston, one and one eighth mile from Fort Moultrie, three-fourths of a mile from Cummings' Point, one and three-eighths miles from Fort Johnson, and two and five-eighths miles from Castle Pinckney. The city of Charleston is entirely out of the range of the range Charleston is entirely out of the range of the guns of Fort Sumter.

STONG INLET.

Stone Point is a portion of Morris Island, facing the sea cosst. Stono Inlet is about two leagues from the south channel of Charleston. Between them lie two islands, viz:-Morris Island, on which the light stands, and Coffin Island. In Stone Inlet there are nine or ten feet of water at low tide, but it was not much frequented until Charleston was blockaded in 1775, when it was visited by British vessels In a stragetical point of view the landing of United purpose of getting in the rear of the Morris Island batteries, which now guard the sea approaches to Charleston. On Morris Island the Confederate States forces and pretty numerous, and if an attempt to land troops will be short and bloody. At our last accounts in regard to Suon Point, General Bauregard had ordered an immense battery to be erected at the very place where it is alleged the United States troops will attempt to land. A sabsequent report stated that several large guns werd in transitu from Castle Pihckny to that Point.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES TROOPS NEAR CHARLESTON.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.
Brigadler General P. T. G. Beauregard.

sed os.forr-companies :- No.
Was blogton Artillery, Captain Walter. La ayerte artillery, Captain Pope.
Marion Mullery, Captain King
German Artillery, Captain Kage.

Total 270
First regiment of Rifles, Colonel J. J. Pettigrew, comsocial of seven companies:— No. Mes.
Washington Light infantry, Captain Simonton 100
f. German Riflemen, Captain Smail 100
Carolina Light Infantry, Captain Pinckney 80
Meultrie Guard, Capt. Palmer 90
Meagher Guard, Capt. McCradey 75
Charleston Zouaves, Capt. Hilbern 45
7, Vigitant Rifles, Capt. Tupper 106

First battalion Charleston Riffemen, Joseph Johnson, Jr., commanding, consisting of four companies:— Company A. Capt. Davay.
Company B. Capt. Herbert
Company C. Capt. Doyle.
Company D. Capt. Cornuff